Assessment Plan

Program: B.A. Art History
College of Visual and Performing Arts
Kean University

Provide the Mission and Assessment Process for your program. The description of your program that is on the website is a great starting point for your Mission. Go to your program’s page on the Kean website and copy and paste the program description below under the heading, Mission.

Mission:

The mission of our B.A. in Art History is to have students focus on understanding and interpreting the visual arts within historical contexts. Skills developed in this program of study include knowledge and appreciation of various Western and non-Western cultures and their arts. Also stressed are awareness of the creative process in the arts, written and oral communication, critical and creative thinking, and the relationship between the arts and other humanities. This major provides students with the foundation necessary for graduate study and for careers requiring a background in art history such as work in galleries and museums. The BA Art History Program at Kean University has several related goals that are aligned with the University Mission as evidenced in the student learning outcomes.

Assessment Process:

Art history students are assessed in upper division courses for content knowledge and writing ability; in particular, the art history capstone project should demonstrate their progress toward these goals. The capstone course, in particular, is designed to do three things: survey the methodologies and historiography of the field; give students hands-on experience in designing and creating a project making use of their art history knowledge (e.g. exhibition, website, public talks); and finally, the capstone serves as a career seminar with individual attention paid to the specific career trajectory of each student. The program is considering implementing a 2000 level course, required for majors, that begins this career work earlier in the degree plan and that will give students more specific instruction in research techniques and writing skills in the field. At the moment we have no formal assessment of majors, but will implement a short content exam to be given in the final year of a student’s program starting in AY 2011-2012. We are considering adding a thesis to the program requirements, but this would necessitate a change in the program. We are also planning to move towards the implementation of e-portfolios for every art history major, but need time to consider which type is best for our students, what it will contain, and how we will assess it.
Program Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) – as aligned with KU SLOs* derived from the Institutional Mission and GE SLOs**. (Data from Direct and Indirect Measures collected each semester in the Capstone Course or a designated, end-of-program course.)

Students who graduate with a BA in Art History should be able to:

SLO1: Demonstrate content knowledge of European, U.S., and one non-western area of art history. (KU 1, 4) (GE K4, S1, S3)

Direct Measure: Achievement in art history survey and upper division coursework; content exam given in last year of degree, varies depending on student’s course choices.

Indirect Measure:

SLO2: Utilize critical thinking and problem solving skills. (KU 1, 2, 4) (GE K2, K3, K4, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5)

Direct Measure: Achievement in art history coursework (oral and written presentations), content exam in last year of degree, performance in capstone course.

Indirect Measure:

SLO3: Demonstrate the ability to research and analyze works of art. (KU 1, 2, 4) (GE K2, K3, K4, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5)

Direct Measure: Achievement in art history upper division coursework (oral and written presentations), performance in capstone course.

Indirect Measure:

SLO4: Attain verbal and written communication skills, including the ability to evaluate and describe (in written form) works of art. (KU 1, 4) (GE K4, S1, S3, S4, S5)

Direct Measure: Achievement in AH 1700, AH 1701, and upper division art history coursework, performance in capstone course.

Indirect Measure:
SLO5: Demonstrate an awareness of the creative process in the arts. (KU 1, 4) (GE K4 S1, S3, S4, S5)

Direct Measure: None. Students will take at least two Fine Arts studio courses. Process is studied in all lower and upper division art history courses.

Indirect Measure:

SLO6 Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the arts and other humanities. (KU 1, 2, 4) (GE K3, K4, S4, S5)

Direct Measure: None. Free electives (37-39 semester hours) selected under the advisement of faculty supervisor, with the objective a program tailored to individual students’ needs.

Indirect Measure:

*KU Student Outcomes: Kean University graduates should be able to:
1. Think critically, creatively and globally;
2. Adapt to changing social, economic, and technological environments;
3. Serve as active and contributing members of their communities; and
4. Advance their knowledge in the traditional disciplines (GE) and enhance their skills in professional areas (Prof. pgms)

**General Education Student Learning Outcomes
Student Learning Outcomes – Knowledge: Students will demonstrate proficiency in knowledge and content by:
(K1) applying the scientific method to comprehend natural concepts and processes;
(K2) evaluating major theories and concepts in social sciences;
(K3) relating historical references to literature; and
(K4) evaluating major theories and concepts in the fine arts.

Student Learning Outcomes – Skills: Students will demonstrate the skills necessary to:
(S1) write to communicate and clarify learning;
(S2) communicate effectively through speech;
(S3) solve problems using quantitative reasoning;
(S4) think critically about concepts in multiple disciplines; and
(S5) show information literacy.